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Assistant Visual Editior | Nico Mendoza

Freshman Emma Trush screams during a play, Saturday, Feb. 18, in McGuirk Arena. Trush is on the CMU Dance Team.

On the cover **Visual Editor | Nate Pappas**

An attendee of the CMU Candlelight Vigil to honor the victims of the Michigan State shooting watches as a speaker delivers their remarks, Wednesday, Feb. 15, in Warriner Mall.

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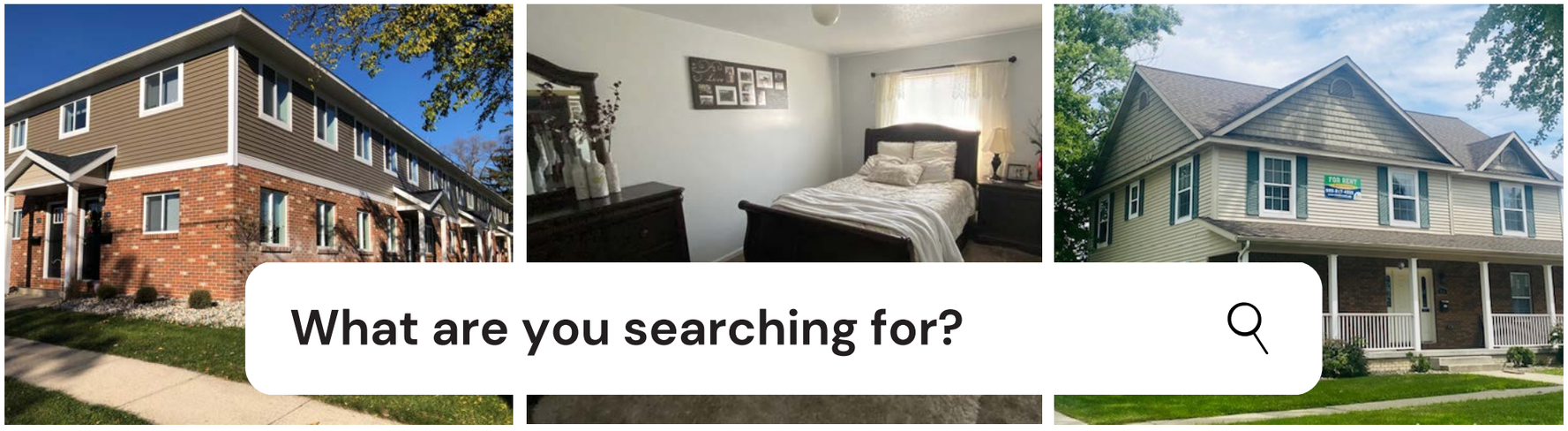

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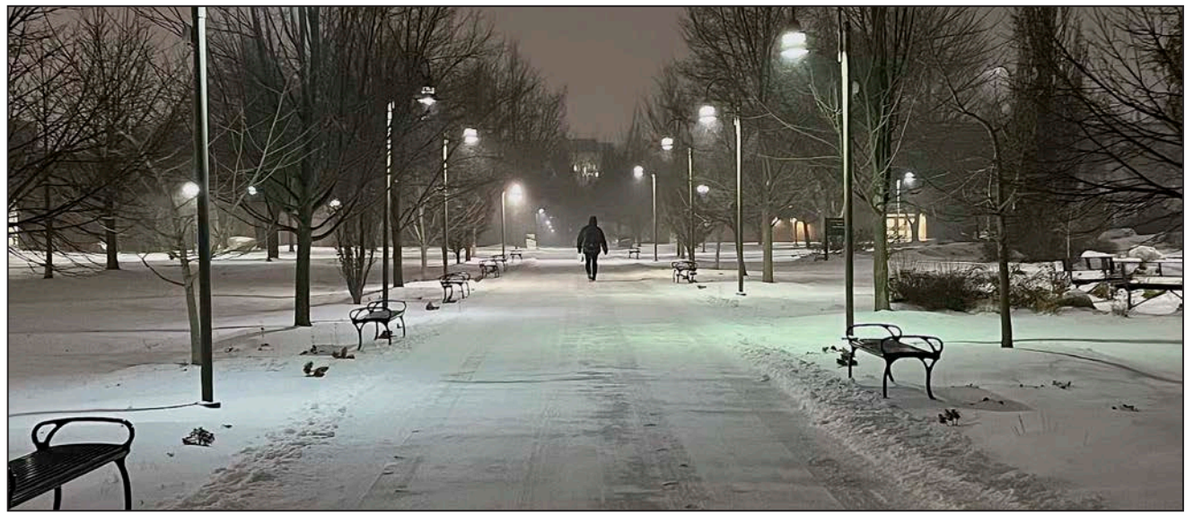
Photos by Staff Photographers Abby Jenkins and Joe Kenoshmeg, Visuals Editor Nate Pappas and Editor-in-Chief Aurora Rae
Photo collage by Caroline Sharbaugh

‘I hope we are never in that kind of situation’

By Breanna Prince and Renae King
Staff Reporters



Renae King | Staff Reporter

A Central Michigan University student walks campus alone at night on Feb. 16.

Editor’s note: Responses were edited for length and clarity.

After the Feb. 13 shooting at Michigan State University, many Central Michigan University students have said they feel uneasy about being on campus.

Zainab Naaz, a first-year international student from India, studies biomedical sciences. Naaz said she has family in Michigan, which is why she chose CMU. Her mother felt more comfortable with her being close to family in case of an emergency.

Emily Lang is a fourth-year political science student at CMU from Deerfield, Michigan. As a freshman, Lang said that she had no safety concerns about being on campus, but after the MSU shooting, she feels unsure of CMU’s ability to prevent a similar event from happening.

Central Michigan Life spoke with Naaz and Lang to get their thoughts on safety at CMU.

How do you think CMU handles safety on campus?

Naaz: It’s been a month (on campus) for me, so I am not the most aware about it. The MSU thing has been a first experience for me, so I don’t know how colleges normally would act. We did receive emails about mental health and if we felt a little unsafe so we could come talk about it and I thought that was really nice for the college to do. There could be more (security) of the halls and buildings that you have classes in. Practically everybody has access to it that you can just enter at ease.

Lang: Not very well. I feel like whenever there’s like an incident on campus ... it’s not taken that seriously. Last week, CMU was the last school in the state to put out a statement about what happened at MSU, even though we’re probably one of the closest schools to MSU. I feel like the most they do is the little Central Alert things. They have scanning IDs to get into dorms and I feel like that’s the extent of what they do. Anyone, at any time, can walk into any of the class buildings. I feel like normal people shouldn’t have the ability to just walk into those buildings.

Are you aware of the different safety resources CMU provides?

Naaz: I know about the mental health part of it. Like if something affected you, I received emails from people and from my professors, but apart from that, no. I didn’t know about the more practical things. I wouldn’t be aware if I’m stuck in a situation, what am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to reach out (to) for help?

Lang: I am aware of them – most of them – I think.

How do you feel CMU would handle an active shooter?

Naaz: I wouldn’t know much but I hope that we are never in that kind of situation. If we are, I think if you’re within your dorms, probably it’s safe. I’m really concerned about if I’m in my lecture because that was the situation at MSU.

Lang: I feel like it would be handled pretty similarly to how MSU handled it.

Has there been an instance where you did not feel safe on campus?

Naaz: I did not attend classes the day after the shooting at MSU. It felt weird so I felt like staying in my dorm for the day.

Lang: During my sophomore year, there were reports about a gunman walking around the apartments by Northwest. I was scared to go back to my apartment because, I was like, ‘No one is updating us about this.’ They sent out the alert that there were allegedly people walking around outside with guns, and then they didn’t say anything else until almost the next morning.

What do you think about requiring IDs to enter all campus buildings?

Naaz: It’s more safe to be in your dorm hallways, where you need to use your ID card to enter, than it is in your lecture halls. That’s a change they can make in our lecture halls.

Lang: I think that is a great idea. I feel like we need to have the same system in place that we have for the dorms where you can’t just walk in. It would make me feel a lot safer when I’m in class.

How did the shooting at MSU impact you as a student?

Naaz: I’ve heard a lot of it happening in America pretty often, so to experience it with a college an hour away from me, that was a first. It was pretty freaky. I did not go to attend my class and I just felt like staying in my dorm.

Lang: I have a lot of friends at Michigan State and I have been talking to them ever since it happened and just like listening to them and, like, seeing their posts and stuff. I don’t know. I can’t personally even begin to imagine what they’re going through. But just like seeing it and watching it all happen, it just makes me angry and upset because it’s so avoidable.

Did the MSU shooting change your feelings about attending classes?

Naaz: Not just because I’m an international student, but anybody would be a little scared in a situation like that, because you try to anticipate the worst that could happen. To be more prepared for it, giving a holiday is not a solution. Just to take a day off is not a long-term solution. We need things that last. If you’re setting rules, be strict with it, so that gets followed because many kids tend to take it really lightly. You have consequences if you don’t follow it.

Lang: I almost skipped class after it happened just because I was nervous. I ended up going to my class, but not a lot of people were there. I did notice that the campus seemed really empty right after it happened.

For more information on this story, visit WWW.CM-LIFE.COM

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Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University every-other Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper’s online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis.

Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Regan Foster serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. Central Michigan Life is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper’s online provider is SN Works.

Central Michigan Life is distributed throughout the campus and at numerous locations throughout Mount Pleasant. Non-university subscriptions are $75 per academic year. Back copies are available at 50 cents per copy, or $1 if mailed. Photocopies of stories are 25 cents each. Digital copies of photographs published in Central Michigan Life are available upon request at specified costs.

Central Michigan Life’s editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

‘I want to feel safe’

CMU marches to stop gun violence

By Masha Smahliuk
Staff Reporter

The chant could be heard throughout Central Michigan University: “No more silence, end gun violence.”

Dozens of students, faculty and community members marched through CMU campus on a snowy Feb. 17 to call for action against gun violence. Participants started the march at the CMU Fabiano Botanical Gardens and finished at Wesley Church with a vigil to honor victims of the Michigan State University mass shooting and show support to those affected.

Bee Bielak, a freshman, organized the march. They said they wanted to unite people to fight together for change and action that ends gun violence.

“I want to feel safe going to my schools,” Bielak said. “I’m a future educator. I hope to be teaching (children) ‘The Great Gatsby’ and not teaching how to barricade our doors.”

Students feel unsafe

Bielak said the MSU tragedy scared them, because it happened close to home. They were worried about their friends at MSU and other students and families. They decided that a peaceful protest can make students’ voices asking for action be heard.

Both at the march and vigil, participants were able to speak up about their experiences with gun violence and to remember mass shootings that happened at schools in the past. Many of speakers called for change.

Freshman Alex Osborne is one of Bielsk’s friends who helped hold the march. He said the gun violence is an “ongoing thing” and it has to change.

> “I want politicians to stop not caring. I want them to do something … anything beyond just thoughts and prayers.”
>
> Alex Osborne
> CMU Freshman

“It easily could have happened to us or Western or Michigan,” Osborne said.

Asher Reister, a sophomore who studies education, said they don’t always feel safe on CMU’s campus.

“I don’t feel safe in this country with our current laws,” Reister said.

Libby Bayne visited her older sister, Abby Bayne, at CMU. In her speech at the march, the 14-year-old said she was worried for her sister as a college student. Both of the Baynes’ parents are educators, and Abby said all her life she has been scared for them going to school.

“This shouldn’t be okay. I shouldn’t have to be here at a protest, because (school shootings) shouldn’t have to exist,” Libby said. “It doesn’t matter how young or old, it doesn’t matter who you are, we all here for the same purpose ... (to) end gun violence.”

“I am very terrified of my future career and my future children in my classroom,” Reister said. “I am scared. I need there to be a change.”

Advocating for change on a political level

Reister said the change they want to see is gun policies such as mental health and criminal background checks for people who buy guns.

Freshman Anthea Pearson and junior Percy Ziolkowski both advocated for gun control laws.

“I want to see a gun reform ... that people who shouldn’t have deadly weapons don’t have access to those weapons to cause harm to community,” Ziolkowski said.

Pearson said she wants to see change in legislation, such as amendments or bills for gun control.

“Gun violence has been a thing that’s been going on for so long and rarely anything has changed,” Pearson said. “We can’t wait any longer. ... This is a major issue.”

“I want to be able to look at a newspaper and not be desensitized by all the countless times that we’ve had tragedies and massacres and shootings,” Osborne said. “I want politicians to stop not caring. I want them to do something ... anything beyond just thoughts and prayers.

Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

A group of people walk across campus to protest gun violence Friday, Feb. 17 on the campus of Central Michigan University.

... I want them to make change in policy. I want them to (care) about the lives of children."

Isaac Koens, a freshman, said students can make their voices heard on a political level by contacting their legislators and signing petitions.

At the march, Bielak encouraged participants to find their representatives and contact them to ask for action that fights gun violence.

Calling for action at CMU

Ziolkowski said they would feel safer if CMU had tighter security; for example, making sure that only students and nobody else can have access to the buildings on campus.

Freshman Kyle King said he wants to make sure all the doors are working properly and have locks on them. However, he liked CMU safety measures, such as Blue Lights Emergency Phones, an emergency outdoor system that can be found around campus.

LeAnn Redman-Wheeler, a faculty member in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Administration, said she was worried about her students on Feb. 13. She sent out emails saying that she is thinking about them and providing resources.

Redman-Wheeler said she was proud of students for putting the march together and advocating for change.

"My students sent me the flyer yesterday. ... I am just incredibly passionate about my students feeling like they have a voice and that they are listened to and supported from faculty," she said.

King and Koens said they were happy to join the march despite the cold.

"It's easy to brave the cold when you've got warmness in your heart," Koens said.

After the march, students warmed up in Wesley church and sipped hot chocolate. They lit candles and stood in a moment of silence for the victims of the MSU shooting.

Bielak shared resources with students to keep fighting for change and showing support to the MSU community.

"Be a part of the change," Pearson said. "Do your research if you don't know a lot. ... Stand up for what you believe in."

Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

A sign gets held up during the peaceful protest Friday, Feb. 17, on the campus of Central Michigan University.

Honor our Spartans, take part in the community

Recognizing front line student journalism during a tragedy

EDITORIAL

Last week, we watched in horror as an all-too common, all-too American experience took the innocence of yet another school campus.

In the minutes, hours and days following the tragic mass shooting at Michigan State University, we saw an immense response from community members everywhere. Students, professors, parents and many others banded together to support and hold the Spartan community when it needed it the most.

Our country has seen countless mass shootings around the United States – 80 as of mid-February, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

When it happens outside of your direct community, it can be easier to lose site of the everlasting pain it leaves. But when it's in or near your community, you cannot avoid the, at times, unbearable days that follow.

Vigils, memorials, protests, therapy dogs, mom hugs: Those are just a few things that have been made commonplace on many Michigan campuses since the shooting.

The entire world has been able to witness, understand and empathize with this situation as unfolded because of those working tirelessly to share stories.

One group in particular has gone above and beyond to document the aftermath of this traumatic situation they now understand all too well — the East Lansing-based, independent student-run newsroom, The State News.

Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

An Oxford shooting survivor talks about their experience Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Central Michigan University Seal outside of Warriner Hall.

Without them and other student journalists, we would have much less information.

The entire staff of student journalists has documented every step of the way, sharing stories that truly reflect the horror and trauma endured the night of Feb. 13.

Central Michigan Life recognizes the relentless effort of The State News to honor its campus through accurate documentation of history.

It's a hard thing to do, and even harder when it affects you. The student journalists at MSU have not only lived through this unspeakable experience, but many have begun to cover it before they've even processed what happened.

In recent days, they have helped lead the community by showing one another they're not alone. Because of their in-depth storytelling, communities near and far have been able to join in the overwhelming kindness, love and support towards Spartan community.

As the flood of media attention dissipates, and those who have the benefit of forgetting do, MSU student journalists and the State News will continue to document the healing and repairing that will take years to do.

Let's stand with them, and the entire MSU community, in healing, sharing and connecting.

Give a hug, have a conversation or share a story. We all have the power to change a person's world for the better.

Arielle Anderson
Alexandria Verner
Brian Fraser

Caroline Scharbaugh | Display Editor

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The results are in ...

Welcome, readers, to Central Michigan Life's 22nd annual Best of Central Michigan Reader's Choice Awards. More than 1,100 voters participated in this year's competition, boosting their favorite businesses, people and hang outs in Mount Pleasant.

This is an opportunity for voters to express love for each nomination and serves as a guide for future purchases, visits and memberships to organizations. We could not do this contest without your help, and we thank you for your participation.

By turning the pages, you will learn about our winners and what makes them stand out in our community. Each winner is awarded a certificate acknowledging their achievements.

Look for those certificates in the stores around the community — and support those businesses! Congratulations to all selected as the community's best.

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BEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Holly Hoffman

Holly Hoffman is a Human Development and Family Studies professor at CMU. She holds a bachelor's in human environmental studies, a master's in educational administration and community leadership, both from CMU, and a Ph.D. in human development and child studies from Oakland University. The popular professor currently teaches lifespan development, family and community partnerships in early childhood, and lead teaching methods in early childhood (science and social studies).

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Cmich.edu/student-life/clubs-and-recreation/university-recreation/university-recreation-facilities/student-activity-center

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506 W. Broadway St.
mountaintown.com

Mountain Town Station offers what our readers crave. The diverse menu spans salads, appetizers, pastas, seafood and a wide array of different meats along, with their grand selection of beer.

BEST HANGOVER FOOD
McDonald's
multiple locations
www.mcdonalds.com

When it comes to soaking up the remains of last night's over indulgence, American icon McDonald's is the community's pick. With affordable prices and 24-hour drive-through service, McDonald's is the place for anyone looking for a late night, or early morning, snack.

BEST STEAK PLACE
Texas Roadhouse

Famous for their hand-cut steaks, freshly-baked bread, ribs, sides and margaritas, Texas Roadhouse provides a taste of home sure to satisfy.

(989) 775- 7427
2177 S. Mission St.
texasroadhouse.com

BEST PLACE ON CAMPUS TO BE ALONE and BEST ELEVATOR ON CAMPUS
Park Library
250 E. Preston St.

BEST PLACE ON CAMPUS TO HAMMOCK
Fabiano Gardens
103 E. Preston St.

BEST PLACE TO DANCE
O'Kelly's Wayside
(989) 772-2391
2000 S. Mission St.
facebook.com/waysidemp

When the urge to dance takes hold, our readers set their sights on O'Kelly's/Wayside Central. This repeat winner is one of the largest nightclubs in Central Michigan and has been a nightlife hot spot since the 1970s. With a fun and energetic atmosphere it's a popular pick when it's time to loosen up and dance.

BEST PLACE TO BUY VINYL
B's Music Shop
(989) 773-0777
613 N. Mission St.
shop.bsmusicshop.com

B's Music Shop is Mount Pleasant's own, independent music instrument retailer and record shop. If you're looking for new and used vinyl, effects pedals, books, instruments and more, B's is the place to be. It offers a knowledgeable staff, and among the largest lesson programs in the area.

BEST JEWELRY STORE
Ace of Diamonds
(989) 779-9919
406 S. Mission St.
aceofdiamondsjewelry.net

For years, when it comes to fine jewelry, the city's finest has been Ace of Diamonds. Kriss and Mike Roethlisberger launched the store in 2001, and it's been a reader's choice for years since. This full-service jewelry store specializes in diamonds and engagement rings, offered under the motto that "Jewelry Buying Should Be Fun."

BEST UNIQUE BUSINESS
Karma Cat Cafe
(989) 773- 2399
612 E. Broadway St.
karmakatcafe.com

No doubt about it, in this town Karma Kat Cafe is the cat's meow. The state-licensed animal shelter provides treatment and care for unhomed cats, and adoption services to pair pet lovers with a new fur baby. Visit them today to find your newest family addition or just to relax and spend time with the cuddle-worthy kitties.

BEST THRIFT/VINTAGE/CONSIGNMENT SHOP
Goodwill Industries
(989) 773- 4884
4529 E. Blue Grass Road
goodwill.org

Whether you are an avid thrift shopper or in need of a great book, Goodwill Industries has almost anything you're looking for. With donated items received daily, you can discover unique finds at a great price. This international nonprofit organization helps provide more than 300,000 people job training and community services.

BEST PLACE FOR A COCKTAIL, APPETIZER
Midori Sushi and Martini Lounge
(989) 775-7723
105 E. Broadway St.
Midorimp.com

Providing unique cocktails and scrumptious seafood, repeat winner Midori offers one of the most diverse dining experiences in the Mount Pleasant area. Using the freshest ingredients possible, they prepare items like oysters, duck breast, salmon salads and specialty sushi rolls that stimulate the palate while surprising customers.

BEST HAPPY HOUR
Applebee's Grill and Bar
(989) 779-2766
4929 E. Pickard St.
applebees.com

Applebee's Grill and Bar in Mount Pleasant hosts happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. to close daily. The specials include deals on appetizers and drinks at the bar.

BEST PARTY STORE
K&S Liquor Store
(989) 772-9000
4855 E. Blue Grass Road

When it's time to stock up on party provisions, our readers' top choice is K&S Liquor Store. The shop offers a wide variety of wine, vodka and more, making it a go-to spot for 21-and-up party needs

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(989) 317-4002
1035 S. Mission St.
Taichibubbletea.com

Taichi Bubble Tea is all about healthy, fresh fusion, according to its website. The restaurant specializes in bubble tea, poke bowls, ramen and sushi. The first location opened in 2015 and has grown to over 19 stores across the country. From its made-to-order sushi burritos to beverages that pop in your mouth, it was our voters' pick for the most unique meal in town.

BEST LOCAL BREWERY AND WINERY
Mountain Town Brewing Company
(989) 400-4666
3068 Jen's Way,
mountaintownbrew.com

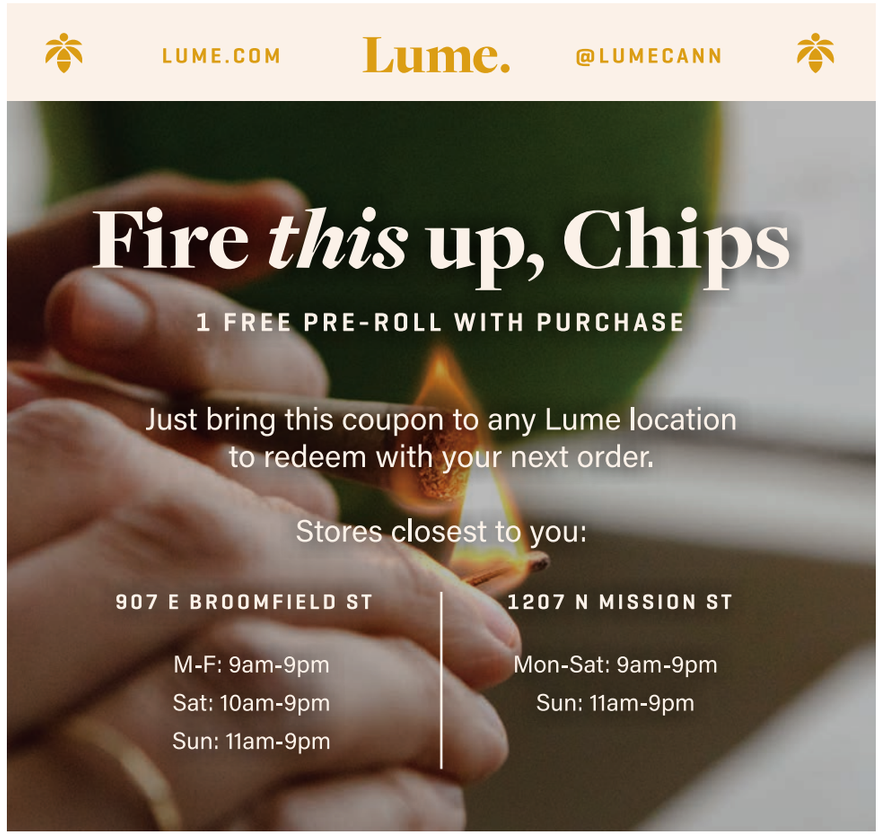
Mountain Town Brewing Company has been making its own recipes and brews since 1996. Gambler's Golden Ale, Railyard Raspberry, Cow Catcher's Ale, Train Wreck, Iron Horse and many more are available on tap or in growler at the Summit Smokehouse. Flights and cans are also available.

BEST CANNABIS BUSINESS
Lume
(989) 607-1935
907 E. Broomfield St,
lume.com

Lume's commitment to quality shows in its meticulously grown cannabis. The company offers the best experience and products possible, including: the Lume Cultivated line, the best quality and variety in flower; Lume Curated, featuring exceptional genetics cultivated from renowned lineages; and Lume Gold Label, its superior solventless extracts.

BEST PLACE TO KARAOKE
The Cabin
(989) 779-9167
930 W. Broomfield St.
Cabinmp.com

The Cabin is a CMU student tradition known for its mouth-watering pizza, breadsticks and variety of beverages. Come for live music, trivia and, of course, the best karaoke in town. The Cabin also offers specials most weekdays.



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THE CABIN
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2nd Place, Best Bar
2nd Place,Best Pizza
3rd Place, Best Happy Hour
Rubbles Dive Bar
2nd Place, Best Place to Hear Live Music
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‘Championships aren’t won on day one’

CMU softball launches season at T-Mobile Tournament

By Kaia Zimmerman
Staff Reporter

To open the 2023 season, Central Michigan softball went 2-2 at the T-Mobile Invitational in Gainesville, Florida, defeating Delaware State, 13-3 and 8-0 while dropping matchups against No. 3 Florida, 15-1 and UCONN 3-2.

Junior pitcher Grace Lehto went 1-1 on the mound for CMU recording 13 strikeouts with two walks while giving up 10 hits throughout seven innings pitched.

Junior Michaleigh Vallimont had two multi-hit games in the four-game stretch, batting a .429 with four RBIs and four runs.

At the lead-off spot for the Chippewas, junior center fielder Abbey Tolmie went 6-for-13 (.462) at the plate, securing a hit in each of the four games and scored four runs for CMU.

The Chippewas only struck out four times through the four-game stretch.

“I think as any season begins, we’re just trying to get better every day,” head coach McCall Salmon said. “As we start non-conference, getting the opportunity to play another opponent will be nice after scrimmaging ourselves for the last how many months so it’ll be nice to get out and play someone else. And we’ll just look to continue to grow on our strengths and improve our weaknesses and get ready for when MAC play is ahead of us.”

The Chippewas were voted second in the preseason Mid-American Conference poll, going into the year with one first place vote.

“On a positive note, it’s better than our seventh (preseason place) last year,” Tolmie said. “But still, we have that chip on our shoulder, we want to be number one. We know we can do it and we’re working towards that number. So, two was a little bit better, but we’re nowhere near satisfied.”

Last season, CMU finished 27-26 overall and 17-11 in conference play, earning them third place in the MAC. The Chippewas will have a lot of similar faces from last year with seven seniors and 10 juniors leading the way.

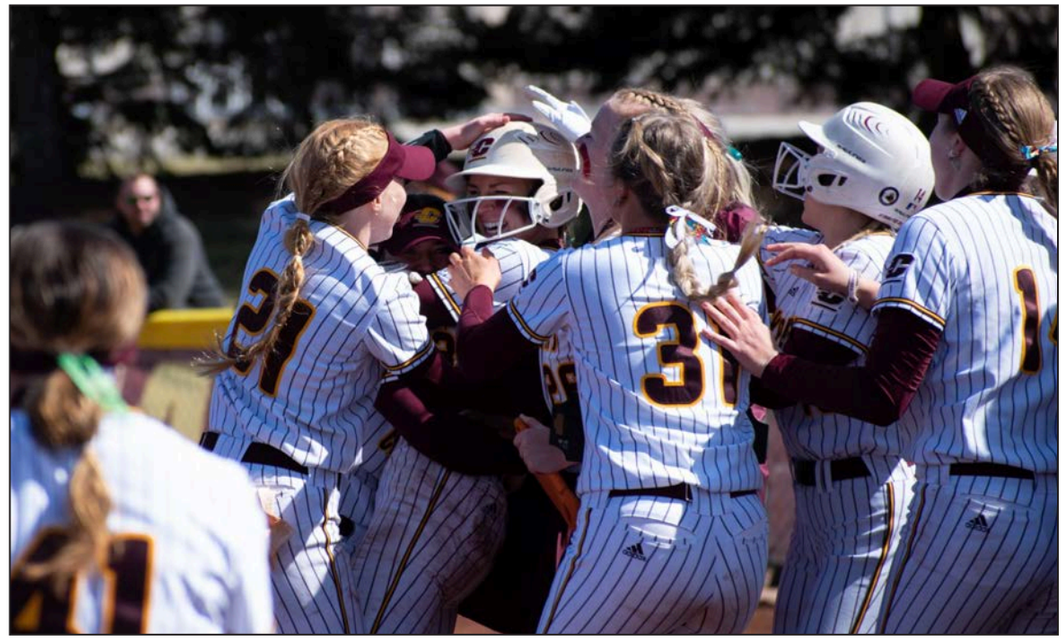
“This is the first time since us as a staff has been here that we’ve had so much experience overall,” Salmon said. “...We’re definitely a group that has experience not only in MAC play, non-conference play, (and) now from MAC tournament play, so they’ve set the foundation for the newcomers and gotten everyone on board, so I’m excited to see those experiences continue to lead into success on the field.”

Having a good core of returning players filled with experience is important for the team to build a bond that helps them carry through the season.

“I think just continuing the leadership, unconditional love and just overall moving in the same direction for Team 45 is what we’re focused on right now,” Tolmie said.

Lehto is one of the notable returners for CMU following a 2022 campaign where she went 16-13 with a 3.14 ERA and 156 strikeouts.

Tolmie returns for her third year as a Chippewa. On the offensive end, Tolmie was a consistent lead-off for CMU, starting in all 53 games and batting a .343 last season. She also was a reliable source in the field, recording 82 putouts and no errors.



Abby Jenkins | Staff photographer
Harrison Township junior Samantha Mills celebrates with teammates after the double-header against NIU on Sunday, April 10 at Margo Jonker Stadium.

“(I want) to continue to utilize my leadership skills, my voice on the field, be a reliable person in the outfield,” Tolmie said. “That way, when the pitchers have a ball hit up, they know it’s going to get caught. ... I was lead-off last year, so just getting on base and letting my batters behind me see as many pitches as we can is going to help us be successful.”

Also returning for another season is redshirt junior Caitlyn Britton, who was the designated hitter for the Chippewas in 2022, hitting a .311 average with 11 home runs and 39 RBI’s.

“We want to win the MAC tournament, win the MAC in general,” Britton said. “I think that’s just one of our biggest goals is just to keep competing every game and win every series and play game by game and for me just making sure (I’m) just hitting the ball up the middle.”

Vallimont will also be helping with the offensive load for CMU. Vallimont ended last season with a .338 batting average while recording 54 hits and 21 RBIs. In the outfield, she had a .955 fielding percentage.

Salmon says that consistency from the team will be one of their main focuses throughout the season.

“Offensively, we return almost everybody so ... all of our hitters have gotten better,” Salmon said. “So, you know, (I’m) excited to see what they can do but consistency across the board every single day, is going to be one of the main keys I’ll be looking for.”

The Chippewas will continue their non-conference competition at the WKU Hilltopper Classic starting at 10 a.m. Friday in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

“I’m excited about the competition that we have, not only in Florida, but non-conference overall,” Salmon said. “So, it’s definitely going to prepare us for MAC play ... championships aren’t won on day one. Championships are won with consistency and progress throughout a season, so just excited to compete.”

Sports reporter Megan Youngblood contributed to this story.

CMU baseball fills in missing pieces in opening series

By Ryan Colores
Sport Reporter

As the Michigan weather slowly begins to transition from bitter cold to melty slush, the changing of seasons in sports simultaneously follows.

For Central Michigan's baseball team, the 2023 season has officially begun following its first series against Baylor in Waco, Texas, over the weekend.

The Chippewas used 29 runs on 30 hits, four home runs and 10 extra-base hits across three games to fuel their series win over the Bears, finishing the weekend with a record of 2-1.

Following game one's 6-5 loss, the Chippewas responded by plating 20 runs in the follow-up contest, taking game two, 20-5.

The top of the second ultimately won CMU the final matchup in its 4-3 win, as it scored each of its four runs in the frame.

The Chippewas, led by fifth-year head coach Jordan Bischel, are coming off of a 2022 season that saw them as the Mid-American Conference Champions.

"These guys really want to do well, and I think what's unique with this group is with so many new faces, they want to keep going (with) what we've accomplished," Bischel said. "Even though we've won some championships and done some good things, half of the guys weren't a part of that because it's a new roster."

Holes to fill on the mound

CMU must look to replace a few players who were instrumental to its success over the last few years specifically last year.

This conversation starts with Andrew Taylor, CMU's ace of the last few seasons who departed in the 2022 MLB Draft. Taylor was selected 80th overall by the reigning World Series Champions, Houston Astros.

The starting pitching rotation also lost a pair of impactful RHP in Jordan Patty and Logan Buczkowski, as both were seniors.

However, the Chippewas also returned with a few key pieces that helped stabilize their rotation last year. One of these players is LHP/OF Garrett Navarra. The graduate student will likely spend much of the season as a starting pitcher while providing at-bats for CMU in between his starts, but he has the versatility to provide production out of the bullpen as well.

"We've seen guys like (Navarra) in the past relieve for part of the year, (become) a starter, and when we got to the tournament go back to the bullpen," Bischel said. "One thing we view as a strength for our pitchers is to be flexible."

Sophomore LHP Adam Mrakitsch made five starts last season and was another player who spent time in both the starting lineup and worked out of the bullpen. He finished his freshman campaign with a 7-1 record while throwing 49.1 innings, recording 42 strikeouts and posting a 2.37 ERA.

CMU will also lean on a few offseason transfers to eat up innings including sophomore RHP Nate Ross, junior RHP Keegan Batka and graduate student RHP Bryce Hellgeth. Ross and Batka both hail from community colleges, while Hellgeth comes in from Dayton and will look to enter the lineup later in the season as he recovers from injury.

Changes expected in the starting lineup

On the position side, the Chippewas will be without both their leadoff and 2-hole hitter Mario Camilletti and Jakob Marsee, who also heard their names called in the 2022 MLB Draft. Camilletti led the team in batting average (.376), OPS, runs and hits. Placing second on the team in each of these categories except average was Marsee, who still managed to hit well above .300 (.345).

Marsee was drafted 180th overall to the San Diego Padre, while Camilletti was selected 251st overall to the Chicago White Sox.

Finally, third baseman Aidan Shepardson and catcher Adam Proctor round out the list of departures who logged significant innings. Shepardson hit .319 and generally occupied a middle-of-the-lineup role. Proctor served as the starting backstop and provided much-needed power at the plate while hitting for an average of .279.

Returning to the lineup from last year's roster are Justin Simpson and Danny Wuestenfeld. Simpson, a senior middle-infielder, held down the shortstop position for CMU last season and posted an OBP of .457. Wuestenfeld, a junior infielder, batted cleanup for the Chippewas last year and led them in home runs with nine as the team's starting first baseman.

As for newcomers to the infield, Bischel said to watch out for junior third baseman Ely Stuart and freshman second baseman Christian Mitchelle.

In the outfield, redshirt sophomore Robby Morgan IV started most of last season at centerfield and will look to build upon his performance as he ranked second on the team in home runs with eight. Returning junior outfielder Jacob Donahue missed portions of last season due to injury and will look to solidify a spot in the starting lineup as well as junior transfers Jacob Brill and Marquis Jackson.

Establishing an identity

With so many departures ravaging the Chippewas' lineup, it may be hard to ignore such gaping holes upon the start of the season that are beyond the teams control. Yet, there are some things that it can control as a team.

Courtesy Photo | CMU Athletics

CMU baseball celebrates its MAC championship.

"I think something you've seen with us year in and year out is we play with a lot of energy and enthusiasm," Bischel said. "We really compete, play hard, we've got great chemistry and at a minimum you want to establish those things early."

Prior to the start of the regular season, it can be hard to accurately gauge the level at which the team will perform. Bischel said that it's all part of a process of learning who you are as a team.

"We got to start to learn about ourselves," Bischel said. "What do we do really well, what do we struggle with? Obviously we have an idea through fall practice, scrimmages and that kind of stuff. But it changes a little bit when the games start being played. Just learning 'hey, where are we ready to be successful?' And then other areas where maybe we do struggle a little bit and have to clean up. You learn some of that on the fly as you go."

Indeed, the Chippewas have a lot of work ahead of them to find the production and consistency they played with last season. The amount of roster turnover is staggering. But there is plenty of excitement surrounding the new faces they brought in, and they will look to establish the identity Bischel talked about before conference play.

Beyond Black History Month
Embracing Black culture on campus

By Briana Thompson
Staff Reporter

In the month of February, Black students on campus continue to embrace their culture at a predominate white institution (PWI).

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their role in U.S. history, according to History.com.

There are resources available at Central Michigan University to learn more about Black identity. Black faculty, staff and students discussed what Black History means to them.

James Span Jr., executive director of the Center for Student Inclusion and Diversity, said his race and gender are his two most dominant identities.

"I am 100% a Black man who has graduated from two historically Black colleges and universities, who is the son of a Black man and a Black woman who was born and raised into a Black Christian church," Span said. "I choose to use Black instead of the term African American because of the correlation and connection that links to our struggle and to appease non-Blacks, as African American may sound easier.

"During the civil rights movement, my people resisted, fought, stood up and sat for themselves to resolve issues of housing, equity, jobs, wealth and health care for many generations to come."

Alfred Harper, assistant director for Multicultural Student Education at the Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS) office, said he attended the historically Black college and university (HBCU), Central State University.

Jo Kenoshmeg | *Staff Photographer*
CMU junior Malcolm Vinson introduces himself to CMU students Monday, Feb. 13, in Kulhavi Hall.

"As I attended CSU, I was grateful to receive an education because there was a time when we were not allowed to enroll at predominate white institutions," Harper said. "Being a first-generation college student and being the first male in my family to finish my master's and currently working on my doctoral degree, I am setting an example for my younger cousins and my nephew in real-time."

Black RSOs on Campus

Presidents, founders and members of Black registered student organizations (RSOs) on campus said their experiences at CMU shaped them as Black leaders.

The Women's Initiative for Strength and Hope (WISH) works with women on leadership, professional skills and connecting with women leaders in the community.

Janay Johnson, the president of WISH, said the organization has shaped her experience on campus.

"I believe that there's a unity that is encouraged," Johnson said. "Collaboration through team building is a part of Black culture. WISH collaborates with Black Girls Rock, Black Men Rock and Men About Change to gain campus mentoring and community resources."

Dasia Myles, the program coordinator for WISH, said the program helps women of color find a system of support on campus.

"I have helped women of color realize there is a safe space for them," Myles said. "My experience has helped shape me where to look for people who have common ground. The programs WISH works within, including Native American Programs, the Student Transitioning and Enrichment Program and Native American Indigenous Student Organizations, are not getting pushed enough to get the recognition that they deserve at CMU."

The Organization of Black Leaders (OBL) focuses on "building a sense of community amongst Black students while developing leadership and professional skills," according to OBL's Instagram.

Danielle Lewis founded OBL in August 2020 and is the current president. She said Black resistance is very prominent within history and communities.

"When I think of Black resistance, I think about the residual of the terrible things that happened in our history, and it motivates me to continue that fight and continue resisting against the systems put in place before I was born," Lewis said. "In the future, I see myself as a lawyer defending people of color and people who are put in the system not made to protect us."

The Organization for Black Unity Fashion Show (OBU) hosts an annual fashion show, usually in February because of Black History Month. The show is

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ENGAGE

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meant to uplift the Black voices and images on campus through media including song, fashion and various forms of art.

Gabriela Salais, vice president of OBU, has been a model for the fashion show.

"Being a model the past three years and seeing how hard the e-board has worked, I realized that it would be a great time for me to make a mark in the program as a collaborator," Salais said. "Since the month of September or October, I have been connecting with models, vendors and the fashion department at CMU to put on a show for the Black community.

"The OBU Fashion Show is put on to inspire the Black and brown community of men and women to experience love and joy."

Imani Ellsworth, a model for OBU, said the experience with other people of color has been enjoyable.

"This is my second year on campus and during my freshman year, I didn't get into many organizations," Ellsworth said. "It was kind of hard to find my people, and I often felt lonely because I was centralized around caucasians because this is a PWI.

"I think it's hard being African American at a PWI because we're often being discriminated against and we often try 10 times harder to get to where our white counterparts are."

ReaXtioN (RXN) "is an all-embracing dance team whose mission is to positively impact the community, and more importantly, build a space to support one another through the art of dance," according to RXN's Engage Central page.

Destiny Taylor, president and founder of RXN, said she has had a love for dance since she was 3 years old. As a freshman, Taylor said she loved to dance for the CMU dance team Rampage, but wanted to explore various forms of dance including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, step and majorette.

Nico Mendoza| Assistant Visual Editor

Junior Riley Robinson talks to another CMU student about the hair care items in her hands, Friday, Feb. 10, in the UC Rotunda.

> "I noticed that ever since I joined RXN, I enjoy being around like-minded individuals and being around people who think like you and like to take risks like you and think big"
>
> Alisia Knox
> RXN fashion coordinator

"When I looked around campus, there were spaces for Caucasian people that did all styles of the styles of dance, so I decided to create a space for Black (students) to participate in all styles of dance," Taylor said. "I have 16 members on the dance team, and I am just so happy because those dancers also show the same experiences as why I created RXN."

Alisia Knox, fashion coordinator for RXN, said it's a fun and comforting experience.

"I noticed that ever since I joined RXN, I enjoy being around like-minded individuals and being around people who think like you and like to take risks like you and think big," Knox said.

Knox said, as a Black woman on campus, she often feels "invisible" at CMU.

"A lot of my classes, I do end up being the only Black person, and there will be times that I have to work with my peers, the white students don't even look my way," Knox said. "Recently, I walked into the classroom with my hoodie on, and sat next to the same person every day, they scooted closer to the wall, and it made them very uncomfortable.

"It's little situations like those that will get you thinking and learn to pay more attention to everybody around you as they interact with people like you and others."

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is an organization focused on the belief that students of color studying multimedia journalism at CMU should work together to pursue scholarships, internships and professional opportunities.

Elijah Lewis, vice president of NABJ at CMU, said, as a Black man, he notices many micro-aggressions and stereotypes that have become common on campus.

"We can't help the looks that we receive just because we're a minority or simply that I am a Black man who is six-foot-five who has dreads and wears earrings," Lewis said. "I feel that a lot of people take that as my stereotype that I'm big, Black and scary. That's not really the case because I'm a real gentle giant once you get to know me or converse with me.

Creative Z is for creative individuals to invent and generate new ideas through different forms of art.

Mannie Calloway, the Student Government Association representative for Creative Z, said the experience with the RSO has helped him and he is proud that this organization has a predominantly Black e-board.

Calloway said he felt that he "lost himself" and suffered being the only Black person in his classes.

"A lot of times, it made me code switch, as now that I am in an environment away from my people and it was only on white mode," Calloway said. "I'll lose the way I speak, slang, the way I start thinking to a point where that became my regular voice.

"Until I realized that I didn't have to code switch ... that's something that people outside of my culture will have to live with based on their own insecurities."

Many Black leaders at CMU said building a connection with a Black faculty member or joining an inclusive RSO are good ways to explore Black identity.

"The phrase Black is Beautiful referred to a broad embrace of Black culture and identity," Smithsonian Institute said. "It is called an appreciation of the Black past as a worthy legacy, and it inspired cultural pride in contemporary Black achievements."

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CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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March 4th- March 12th

CMU Students, CMU Faculty/Staff, and Community Members

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"WE INSPIRE ENGAGEMENT"

Snow

Places to play following the late winter storm

For more area outdoor options, visit cm-life.com

By Bryce Hollins
Staff Reporter

Winter recently roared back with a vengeance, but spring is right around the corner. Adventurous Mount Pleasant community members may be looking for outdoor activities for the next few weeks, and here are a few places to play:

Island Park

According to mt-pleasant.org, Island Park, 331 N. Main St., is a 50-acre park with a long list of activities available to the public, no matter the weather conditions.

The park has an ice skating rink, open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. in January and February, according to mpcityblog.com. The rink is free and maintained by the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation. People who want to use it need to bring their own skates.

When the weather warms up, walking trails, sports courts, outdoor fitness equipment and more are also open for the Mount Pleasant community.

Chippewa Watershed Conservatory

The Chippewa Watershed Conservancy (CWC) owns 24 nature preserves that permanently keep over 640 acres of wild lands open to the public for educational and recreational purposes.

According to CWC Executive Director Mike LeValley, the nature preserves are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and free, but most of them do not have trails.

The CWC's preserves have outdoor activities for all, whether in the rain, snow or sunshine, from hiking in the warmer months to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

"Bundy Hill ... is the highest point in Isabella County; there's actually about a two-mile hike out there depending on how you do it," LeValley said. "There's a view from one point on the hike where you can see about 15 miles.

"It's actually 500 feet higher than the city of Mount Pleasant and it's a 170-foot climb from the parking lot to the top of the hill."

Deerfield Nature Park

Located at 2425 W. Remus Road, Deerfield Nature Park (DNP) is 591 acres of forest and river, according to michigan.org. With groomed trails for cross-country skiing, access to ice fishing, snowshoeing and a sledding hill, DNP is full of activities for the winter months.

Once the weather improves, DNP's eight miles of hiking and biking trails, two 18-hole disc golf courses, a swimming beach and picnic areas may become an ideal location for outdoor activities.

DNP is open 8 a.m. to dusk year-round. Park fees and charges can be found on Isabella County's website and reservations can be made at isabellacounty.goingtocamp.com.

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MAROON

Southpoint/Winchester	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Village at Bluegrass	:21	:51	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
University Meadows	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Union Square	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Target			UPON REQUEST
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**
Washington/Ojibway	:44	:14	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Ronan/Grawn	:47	:17	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/DOAN CENTER			UPON REQUEST
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:12**	**:42**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

GOLD

SAC/McGuirk	:13	:43	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Stadium Mall			UPON REQUEST
TJ Maxx			UPON REQUEST
Walmart			UPON REQUEST
Copper Beech	:26	:56	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Reserve	:28	:58	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Jamestown	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Yorkshire Commons	:33	:03	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

DEERFIELD

TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deming Edgewood	:16	:46	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Communter Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

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COMMUTER SHUTTLE:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

8:00PM & 10:30PM RETURN FROM PARK LIBRARY TO APT. COMPLEXES ONLY

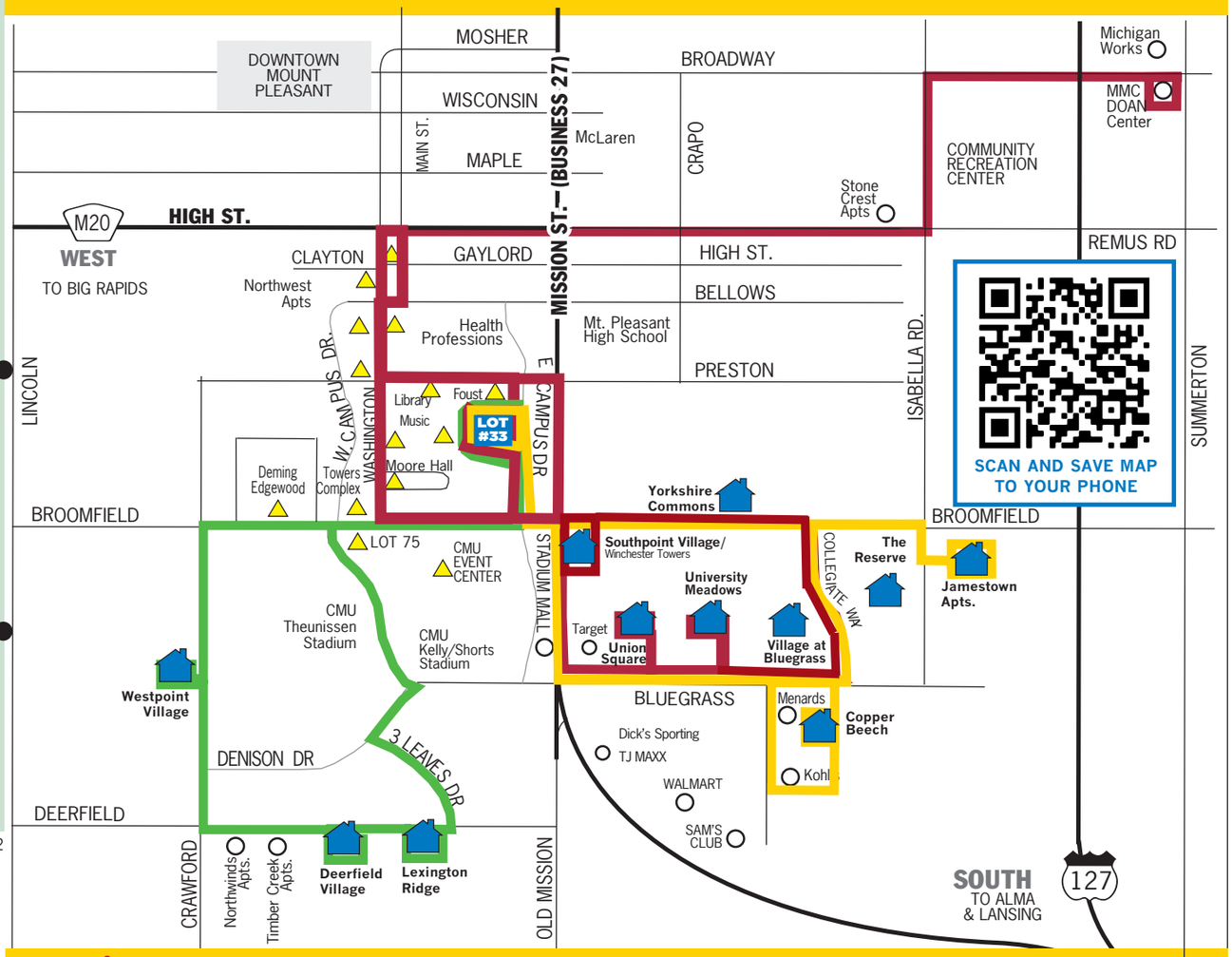
REQUEST STOPS: ○ REGULAR FARE $2.00

EVERY HALF HOUR SHUTTLE STOPS:

▲ **BUS STOPS**
No fare collected/prepaid stops by contract with our partners

⌂ **APARTMENT COMPLEX STOPS**
Rides for residents prepaid by complex

COMMUTER SHUTTLE ROUTES



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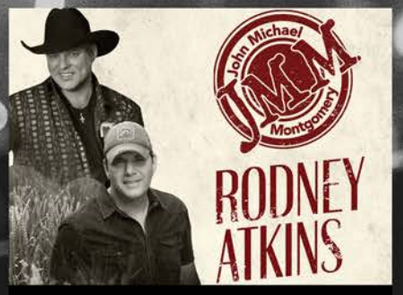

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4 | 7:00PM
SOLD OUT

LARRY THE CABLE GUY

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

VODKA PASTA

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 | 6:30PM
$75 GA, $125 VIP

KOOL & THE GANG

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 | 8:00PM
$40, $50, $66, $74

REO SPEEDWAGON

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7 | 8:00PM
$44, $54, $72, $78

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THE NIGHT TOUR

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